COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Clifford Explains U. S. Stand

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford believes that the United States cannot withdraw from Vietnam, Europe, the Middle East and other problem areas of the world, even though "there's a great inner visceral desire to pull back from the world."

Speaking before the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce on Dec. 4, Secretary Clifford said, "A nation that achieves the power and the influence and the prestige of the United States has to face up to its problems. We don't find peace by withdrawing.

"I believe that we should approach the future from the standpoint of working to develop regional agreements in the world. I think what we must do is recognize the responsibility that we have and approach it from the standpoint of saying to various regions of the world:

" 'You are the nations who are primarily responsible for maintaining the peace in this part of the world and we will help you; we will help you economically; we will help you with military equipment, but do not expect that we will send American troops to you. It is your responsibility. We will, in effect, be a limited partner is such a type of agreement.'

"We know and the American people recognize it and it is generally accepted, we cannot be the policemen of the world, but we cannot withdraw. So I think we must find this middle area, so that when you look at a trouble place, whether it be the Middle East or whether it be Southeast Asia, whether it be Europe, we wish to be in the background as a limited

(Continued on Page 2)

IN SON'S MEMORY—Maj. Gen. Robert G. Fergusson, CG U.S. Army Berlin Command, officially dedicates Fergusson Hall at the Jungle Operations Training Center, Fort Sherman, Canal Zone. The hall was named in honor of his son, Lt. Robert C. L. Fergusson, posthumously awarded DSC for heroism in Vietnam. With Gen. Fergusson (l) are Gen. Robert W. Porter, Jr., C-in-C Southern Command, Lt. Col. Herbert B. Winkeller, training center commandant, and Maj. Gen. Chester L. Johnson, Commander, United States Army Forces Southern Command.

Dental Care Improved for Veterans

A new policy on dental care adopted by the Veterans Administration will extend treatment to Viet-Nam era veterans on a more liberal basis.

VA provides treatment for dental conditions which originated or were aggravated during military service if veterans apply during the first year after release from service.

Until recently, all ex-servicemen had to support their requests by military records.

Under VA's new policy, dental treatment may be provided without supporting military records if it is determined professionally—during the first eight months after release from service—that the condition is service-connected.

The veteran must make his application within the first six months after release from service and he must have served on active duty six months or more to qualify for the new benefit.

Dr. J. J. Hiniker, VA's director for dentistry, said the new policy is expected to extend dental care to veterans who during military service developed conditions which were not entered in their records.

U.S. Troops Must Remain Overseas Says SecDef

(Continued from Page 1)

partner extending all types of aid.

"In that way I think we can serve the purpose without being involved to the extent that we deplete our own resources . . . It doesn't make any difference how helpful we can be to the rest of the world if our own economy collapses here . . ."

Mr. Clifford said that in Vietnam several steps brought about the peace talks in Paris and "I think constituted a very real turning point in the war."

He brought out the decision not to send any more troops there, to turn over to the South Vietnamese an increasing share of the burden of combat and to stop the bombing north of the 20th parallel.

He said when we were not in a conversation with North Vietnam we had to go ahead and meet them militarily. "Now we are in contact with them, and I believe that our goal in Paris should be to proceed along this line.

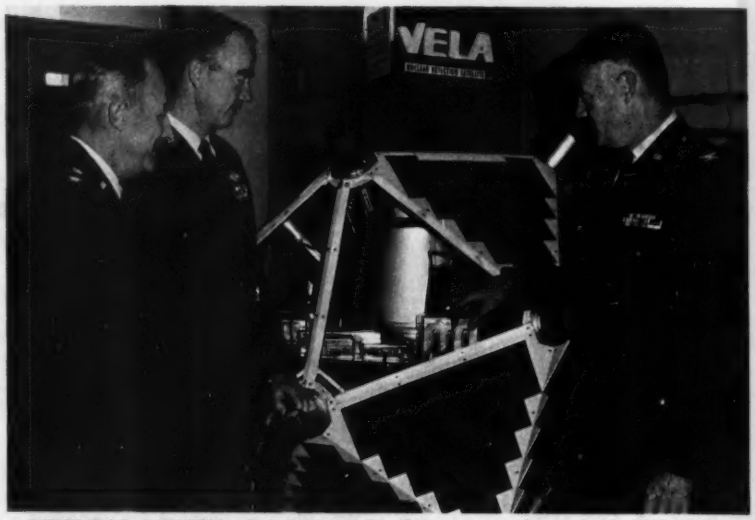
"We must get the demilitarization of the DMZ. We would hope to get an understanding about their not shelling our urban centers in South Vietnam. I would hope that we could reduce the level of combat. This is what we need.

"My hope would be that a diminution in the level of combat could lead ultimately under certain conditions to a ceasefire and then we must start, and I would hope we would begin to negotiate now, upon a mutual withdrawal of all forces, both North Vietnamese forces and United States Forces. When that day comes, we will know that we have made the turn."

He then turned to the subject of the strength of the United States "vis-a-vis" the Soviet Union—"What is the comparative nuclear strategic strength?"

He said, "I have maintained, I maintain today, and when I leave this globe I shall continue to maintain, I believe we should maintain a steady superiority in this field as far as the Soviet Union is concerned.

"I submit to you that we continue to maintain a substantial superiority."



NUCLEAR DEVICE—Col. Richard M. Gill, commandant of Air University Institute of Professional Development, points out element of VELA nuclear detection satellite during recent three-day Space Orientation Course attended by 50 ranking military and civilian personnel. Viewing VELA device from left are Maj. Gen. William D. Greenfield, commander of Central Region NORAD and 10th Air Force at Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo., and University Commander Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark.

Substantiating this, Mr. Clifford said we have 1100 ICBM's and the Soviet Union has 900. We have 650 submarine missiles and the Soviet Union has 75. We have 640 intercontinental bombers to their 150. "And in the final tally in that area that counts when the showdown comes, we have 4200 deliverable nuclear warheads, and they have 1200."

He said that we have learned that we are so inextricably bound with Europe that "we cannot ignore in some instances even relatively minor developments in Europe."

He asked, "Why is it necessary for the United States to keep 300,000 soldiers in Europe?

"The answer is quite simple. It is the presence of those troops in Europe which has maintained the peace of Europe for the past 23 years. I look upon it as an insurance policy. We pay an annual premium to keep those men there. I suggest that we must continue to do it."

On the Middle East, Mr. Clifford said, "This is perhaps the most inflammable one area on our globe. Part of the difficult posture of affairs there, is that the Soviet Union is playing a very dangerous game in the Middle East.

"I would hope that as time went on they would see it as we see it, that it is to the great interest of the Arab nations and Israel that peace be brought to the Middle East."

On Korea, he said, "Korea today has become a showplace of democracy in that part of the world. It was a sacrifice well worth making when we expended the lives of our men that we did there and our treasure, because today it constitutes a very stable factor in an unstable part of the world."

He commented briefly on the Mediterranean situation saying, "The Soviets now have a substantial fleet in the Mediterranean. I trust that it does not mean that they have ambitions there that could make an already dangerous situation burst into flames."

Army Will Release 20,000 Reserves and Guardsmen Within A Year

The Department of the Army said approximately 20,000 members of the Reserve and National Guard mobilized last spring will be released from active duty within the next 12 months.

This will include those members in units mobilized last May and, in addition, the individuals subsequently mobilized from the Individual Ready Reserve to provide fillers.

The net effect of this action will be to release by Oct. 31, 1969, about half of the mobilized Army Reservists and Guardsmen and the remainder by Dec. 15, 1969.

Of the units mobilized, about half were sent to Vietnam starting in August of last year and the remainder constitute part of the Strategic Army Forces in the United States, replacing in many cases active Army units which were sent to Vietnam.

Under the plan, all Army Reserve members and Guardsmen who serve in Vietnam will be released after completion of the normal one-year tour of duty in Vietnam, or Dec. 15, 1969, whichever is earlier.

All other mobilized Army Reserve members and Guardsmen will be released between Dec. 1 and 15, 1969.

Those whose reserve obligation expires prior to the time they would otherwise be released will be released not later than the date of expiration of their obligation.

In order to prevent this demobilization from lowering the readiness of the active forces, draft calls will be adjusted up from normal by an average of 3,000 per month for the months of March, April, May, June and July of 1969.

This will provide sufficient lead time to make sure that trained men are available to replace the Reservists and Guardsmen at the time of their release.

For those who were members of mobilized units, this results in release at least five months before the expiration of the two-year period of active duty authorized by law. Those individuals mobilized as fillers will be released on or before expiration of this active duty commitment.

The units of the Army Reserve and National Guard which were mobilized will be reconstituted in the Army Reserve and National Guard beginning in January 1970.

'RELAXATION'—Patrol break to "relax" gives PFC Jesse Prado, 21, of India Company, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, chance to shave. Note proximity of rifle while "relaxing."

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Challenge to the Soviet Monolith

NATIONALISM IN EASTERN EUROPE

Ambassador C. Burke Elbrick recently discussed seven of the states of Eastern Europe which adopted the Communist form of government after World War II: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania and Yugoslavia. (He excluded East Germany "because it raises wider problems than those which can be dealt with in an Eastern European context.")

Mr. Elbrick, who is U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia, also has served in Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia.

Eastern Europe, he believes, is too often studied as an appendage of the Soviet Union or as a rather unimportant part of the Communist world. However, throughout history this area has had "an internal dynamic of its own," given it mainly by its geographic position between some of the great powers of modern European history and by its very complex nationality structure.

An examination of this dynamic, he said, provides important clues to an understanding of the fast-moving developments in Eastern Europe today. Below are excerpts from his address of October 8.

It is impossible to form an accurate impression of Eastern Europe without understanding that it is a conglomeration of many different nationalities. To name only the most important, there are Poles, Ruthenes, Czechs, Slovaks, Slovenes, Croats, Serbs, Bulgarians, Macedonians, Hungarians, Rumanians, and Albanians.

To complicate things further, it is almost a general rule that each state has several nationalities and that each nationality is spread among several states.

Crucial Distinction Between State, Nation

The point about the complicated nationality structure is this. In the United States we do not make a clear distinction between the words "state" and "nation"; Eastern Europeans do. To them "state" is an administrative term, "nation" an ethnic term meaning nationality, people. . . . A native of Bratislava thinks of his state as Czechoslovakia, but his nationality as Slovak. This distinction Eastern Europeans make between "state" and "nation" is absolutely crucial in their history.

Many of the Eastern European nations enjoyed, at some point in their distant past, an independent existence in a state incorporating their national identity.

Eventually the Eastern European nations were largely submerged in the vast state-empires of Turkey, Austria, and Russia. These empires were all multi-national, and they denied to the subject nationalities the rights and liberties they gave their own dominant nationalities.

Eastern Europe Between the World Wars

In the 19th Century . . . the spirit of nationalism took hold throughout Eastern Europe. . . . Finally, during the period of the Balkan wars and World War I, these three empire-states were obliterated one by one.

What emerged from Versailles was a pattern of Eastern European independent states . . . proud of their independence and not anxious to return to their previous subordination to the empire-state principle. . . . [However] six of the seven states soon lapsed into dictatorships; only Czechoslovakia withstood the process.

The internal weaknesses in the area were so great that Hitler had little trouble capitalizing on them. Thus he played the Slovaks off against the Czechs, and the Croats off against the Serbs, setting up an "independent" Slovakia and an "independent" Croatia, the latter complete with goose-stepping local fuehrer.

Crack in the Soviet Monolith

Following World War II the states of Eastern Europe were not permitted to return to their prewar national existence. The pendulum of power swung from West to East, from Hitler's Germany to Stalin's Russia. It is true that the seven states we are considering retained a formal governmental structure and the trappings of statehood, but their policy, internal as well as external, was made in Moscow.

As at the time of subordination to the great pre-World War I empires and of the Nazi hegemony, the national principle in Eastern Europe counted for nothing.

The first crack in the Stalinist monolith came in 1948 in Yugoslavia, a country whose development during the Second World War had been somewhat different from the rest of Eastern Europe.

During the war the Yugoslav Communist Party, with Tito at its head, had been the major opponent of the Axis occupiers and had fought gallantly—with, incidentally, very little help from the Soviets. It had thus associated itself with Yugoslavia's national ideals in a manner unique among European Communist parties.

Tito was determined not to submit to the humbling conditions which Stalin imposed on the rest of Eastern Europe; and when Stalin realized this, he had the Yugoslav leader expelled from the Cominform. Stalin thought that with this support removed, Tito would crumble. "I will shake my little finger and there will be no more Tito," he was quoted as saying.

But he was wrong, partly because of the aid given to Yugoslavia by the West (especially by the U.S.) and partly because he drastically underestimated the strength of Yugoslav nationalism. Yugoslavia remained an independent island in a sea of satellites, an embodiment of the national principle in an area which had lost it.

The uprisings in 1956 in Poland and Hungary were also "nationalist" uprisings in the sense that they were aimed at the Soviet monopoly of power over their country.

In Hungary the challenge to the Soviets was explicit. The govenment installed by the Hungarian revolution called for free elections and declared Hungary's neutrality. Seeing their empire in danger, the Russians moved tanks into Budapest and crushed the revolt.

Recently a new wave of nationalism has been sweeping Eastern Europe. Reforms in Yugoslavia have almost eradicated the traces of the Soviet pattern of communism. Rumania has sought a measure of independence in foreign policy. Most recently, Czechoslovak desire for independence sought realization with such swiftness and in so wide a scope that it could be described as revolutionary—or in the Soviet jargon, counter-revolutionary.

Because of its speed and magnitude, the rebirth of nationalism in Czechoslovakia brought into play the other historical constant of Eastern Europe, imperialism. Once again detecting a threat to its imperial system, Soviet Russia gathered its vassal states and marched in, seeking to stifle the new nationalist spirit.

Pattern of Eastern European History

You will notice that in this talk about Communist Eastern Europe I have had very little to say about communism *per se*. The omission is intentional. I have been trying to show the extent to which Eastern European history falls into a discernible pattern which is as relevant to the Communist states of Eastern Europe today as it was to the medieval kingdoms of Eastern Europe half a millennium ago.

To recapitulate briefly, the rhythm of Eastern European history has been characterized by a fluctuation between the nationality principle and the empire-state principle.

In the Middle Ages most of the major Eastern European nationalities found their fulfillment in states which expressed the national idea. But the nationality principle came to be submerged in the great empire-states of Turkey, Austria and Russia.

The revival of nationalism in the 19th century weakened these empires; World War I destroyed them. As a consequence of the Versailles settlement, the nationality principle again became dominant, but the weaknesses of the new national states and the power of the Reich combined to subjugate them once more to a new empire-state, Hitler's. Their falling into the Soviet sphere after the war changed the ruler but not the essential character of this rule.

Finally, today we are witnessing a situation in which new attempts by the people of Eastern Europe to assert the national principle—to claim the right to manage their affairs according to their own desires and independently of the requirements of a supranational great power—are being met by Soviet efforts to reassert the empire-state principle.

I do not underestimate the importance of the theory and practice of communism to developments in Eastern Europe since World War II. Still, I think there is a tendency to put too much emphasis on the importance of communism, which has been a political factor in that area for only a few decades, and too little on nationalism, which has been a factor since early in Eastern European history.

Not Abandoning Communism

If my analysis has been correct, then it follows, first, that the nationalism so visible in Eastern Europe today is not necessarily an anti-Communist nationalism, and second, that if it succeeds throughout the area—as seems doubtful in the light of events in Czechoslovakia—it will not necessarily result in a non-Communist Eastern Europe.

In any case, for reasons of practical politics the bearers of nationalism are likely to be the local Communist parties. Yugoslavia, which has gone farthest down the nationalist road, is still a Communist state and likely to remain so. But Yugoslavia is imaginatively adapting its communism to local needs.

Czechoslovakia also sought to abandon the Soviet model, but only the hardest of hardliners within the Communist world concluded that its reforms signified an abandonment of communism.

Nationalism vs Imperialism

Before the tragic intervention in Czechoslovakia, hopes seemed to be bright that the new Eastern European nationalism would be able to find expression in forms which would not arouse Soviet fears for the safety of their empire. That hope has been extinguished for the time being, and we find ourselves once again in a period of open conflict between the national principle and the imperial principle.

Each time such a situation arises in Eastern Europe it has effects far beyond the confines of that region. I cannot predict the outcome of the current conflict, nor can I predict what the repercussions may be or how far they may spread.

One of the few things about Eastern Europe that can be predicted with any certainty is . . . : the problems of Eastern Europe today and tomorrow are going to be very similar in kind to those which it has faced century after century. Only the actors will change, and there will often be a frightening resemblance between the new actors and the old.

Director Terms Project 100,000 'Success'

Project One Hundred Thousand, DOD's program to give young men previously disqualified for military service an opportunity to qualify as fully satisfactory servicemen, completed its first two years on Sept. 30 and was termed successful by program director I. M. Greenberg.

Mr. Greenberg pointed out the 140,000 quota for Phase I and II set at the beginning of the program in October 1966, was not only met but exceeded. (See Table)

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford commended the program and said, "New Standards men in uniform are making their way in a highly acceptable manner. That this is so is surely the consequence of the exceptional skill, effort and enthusiasm which each department has brought to the task of training and motivating its New Standards men."

"New Standards" is the term applied to volunteers and draftees who score low on the Armed Forces Qualification Test and certain medical remedial men who may now be accepted in the armed forces.

Phase III of the program, starting on Oct. 1 and running through June 30, 1969, is now in progress. The shortened nine-month phase will bring the continuing program in alignment with the fiscal year.

Although the goals were numerical in the first two phases, quotas in Phase III and in the future will be based on percentages of total accessions for the armed forces. Mr. Greenberg said this would keep the program standardized regardless of whether total accessions go up or down.

Project One Hundred Thousand is aimed at men who fail to score well on standard written tests but can qualify as fully satisfactory servicemen when exposed to modern instructional techniques and on-the-job training, and to those who are disqualified for physical defects which can be corrected in a short period of time.

During the years preceding the program, more than one-third of the men reaching military age each year were declared unfit for service under the mental and physical standards established. Of these, more than half could meet the mental standards composed of written tests and educational requirements.

Volunteers and draftees who score as low as the 10th percentile on the AFQT are now acceptable under the program. The deficiency in mental ability is made up by concentrated and specialized attention during their training early in their service career.

New Standards men are trained along with all other men in regular training centers and schools and are not singled out as a special group. However, some are given extra time to bring their performance up to acceptable requirements.

This is accomplished through recycling of certain portions of training, assignment to a special training unit, extra time for skill training and educational upgrading.

The medical remedial portion of the program makes acceptable those men with specific defects that are correctable in six weeks or less by minor surgery or physical conditioning.

Mr. Greenberg emphasized that although the entrance standards for these men have been lowered in order to give them a chance to serve, performance standards remain the same. "All men accepted under the program are required to meet minimum performance standards established by each military service in order to be retained," he said.

Of the total that have come into the service under the program, nearly 96 percent successfully completed their basic training and have been integrated into regular service units as compared with a 98 percent figure for those entering under previous entrance standards.

DMZ VIEWED FROM CHOPPER—Cameraman aboard Marine Sea Knight helicopter snaps action. Leathernecks of Fourth Marines, 3d Marine Division, are moving into position south of Demilitarized Zone near Ben Hai River to ferret out Viet Cong forces.

PROJECT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND

New Standards Accessions in Phase I and II (October 1966 to September 1968) Compared to Quota

	Quota a/	Achieved		
		Total	Mental	Medically Remedial b/
Department of the Army	96,100	96,985	94,785	2,200
Department of the Navy	16,000	16,579	13,334	3,245
Department of the Air Force	13,700	13,735	11,261	2,474
Marine Corps	14,200	13,368	12,465	903
Total Department of Defense	140,000	140,667	131,845	8,822

a/ Combined quota for New Standards mental accessions and Medically Remedials.
b/ Medically Remedial Enlistment Program initiated February 1967.

Progress in Meeting New Standards (N/S) Quotas in Phase III (October 1968-June 1969) c/

	N/S Mental Men as a % of Total Access		N/S Physical Men as a % of Volunteer Access		Number of N/S Men Accepted, October 1968 d/			
	Quota	Achieved d/	Quota	Achieved d/	Mental	Physical	Total	Progress Rating e/
Army	12.0%	14.2%	1.0%	1.4%	4,216	232	4,448	119%
Navy	9.0	7.8	2.0	2.2	940	268	1,208	91
Air Force	9.0	9.1	2.0	1.8	1,067	208	1,275	99
Marine Corps	12.0	10.5	1.0	1.1	838	90	928	90
Total DoD	11.0%	11.5%	1.5%	1.7%	7,061	798	7,859	107%

c/ Phase III is a 9 month period to align program with fiscal year.
d/ Does not include credit for Phase II overages. Adjustment for these overages will be made in December 1968.
e/ Number accepted as a % of expected progress.

Characteristics of New Standards Men Accepted October 1, 1966 to June 30, 1968

Race		Average Age	Educational Level		Reading Ability		Employment Status	
White	59.8%	20.5	Average Grades Completed	10.6	Average Grade Level	6.2	% Unemployed	39.0%
Negro	38.7%		% High School Graduates	44.2%	% Below 4th Grade	14.4%	% Earning $60 or less per week	17.5%
Other	1.5%				% Below 5th Grade	30.9%	Total	56.5%
					% Below 6th Grade	47.1%		

Performance in Basic Training (Men who fail to graduate Basic Training are normally discharged)

Graduation Rates and Extra Help Required by Mental Group

	Gr. IV (Armed Forces Qual Test 10-30)				Groups I, II, III	Total I, II, III, IV
	10-15 f/	16-20 f/	21-30	Total		
Graduation Rate						
10/66 to 9/67 (12 mo)	96.0%	96.3%	96.5%	96.3%	98.1%	97.7%
10/67 to 9/68 (12 mo)	95.4%	96.1%	96.5%	96.1%	98.0%	97.5%
% Requiring Extra Help g/						
10/66 to 9/67 (12 mo)	9.8%	8.4%	8.2%	8.6%	3.7%	4.8%
10/67 to 9/68 (12 mo)	13.6%	10.8%	9.3%	10.9%	4.8%	6.3%

Graduation Rates for New Stds Men Compared to Other Men h/

	New Stds	Other Men
Army	97.0%	98.3%
Navy	91.0	97.8
Air Force	91.4	97.5
Marine Corps	91.3	96.1
Total DoD	95.8%	97.9%

f/ Most New Standards men are included in these two lower Group IV categories.
g/ Recycling or remedial help in Special Training Companies.
h/ For men who entered service Oct 1966 to Dec 1967 and completed training June 1968.

Performance in Advanced Training-Attrition Rates in Entry Level Courses Attended by New Standards Men i/

DoD Occupational Groups	Army Aug 67 to Aug 68 (145 Courses)		Navy Feb 67 to July 68 (44 Courses)		Air Force Apr 67 to Sept 68 (60 Courses)		Marine Corps Apr 67 to Mar 68 j/ (70 Courses)	
	New Stds Men	All Others	New Stds Men	All Others	New Stds Men	All Others	New Stds Men	All Others
Infantry, Gun Crews & Allied Specialists	2.5%	1.8%	0	0	Not App	Not App	2.9%	
Electronic Equipment Repairmen	22.9	10.9	33.3%	Not App	Not App	Not App		
Communications & Intell Specialists	18.3	8.9	0	11.7%	Not App	Not App		
Medical and Dental Specialists	28.6	1.8	5.0	6.5	17.8%	3.0%		Not
Other Technical & Allied Specialists	49.6	9.2	Not App	Not App	23.3	4.6	5.6	
Administrative Specialists & Clerks	16.7	3.7	36.5	1.8	12.9	4.0		Avail
Electrical/Mechanical Equip Repairmen	16.6	5.5	32.0	6.1	16.1	4.3		
Craftsmen	8.5	2.3	8.5	2.7	8.8	3.7		
Service & Supply Handlers	5.1	3.5	0	1.7	9.8	4.7		
Total Occupations	8.9%	4.0%	14.7%	6.7%	12.4%	4.0%	3.4%	

NOTE: Attrition data for "All Others" is based on current or past experience for men attending same courses as New Standards Men.
i/ Includes attrition for academic, physical and administrative reasons. Men who fail to graduate in advances training courses are normally reassigned to another type of training, or are sent to units for on-the-job training.
j/ Based on the last skill course attended prior to being sent to a unit.

AF Reserves to Activate Medic Evac Unit

A new Air Force Reserve aeromedical evacuation (associate) unit will come into being in July with the forming of the 932nd Aeromedical Airlift Group (Associate) at Scott AFB, Ill. The new unit was redesignated from the 932nd Military Airlift Group (Reserve).

The first of its kind, the 932nd will utilize the McDonnell-Douglas C-9 Nightingale "flying hospital ward" and other equipment of the Scott-based 375th Aeromedical Airlift Wing.

The new group will have aeromedical airlift, material and support squadrons. Reserve flying and medical crews will make the transition to the C-9 and join their active duty counterparts in flying medical evacuation missions either as all-Reserve crews or with active duty personnel of the 375th.

The 932nd is now using C-124 Globemasters and these will be phased out with the redesignation. Col. Allen A. Beaumont, will remain unit commander.

Under the Military Airlift Command Reserve Associate program, Reservists work with their active duty counterparts to fly and maintain aircraft in MAC's modern jet combat airlift force.

Gen. Howell M. Estes Jr., MAC commander, said of the associate program and its purpose: "To directly couple formed Reserve units, not individuals, with regular units flying these modern aircraft so that in times of emergency we are capable of achieving maximum capability which is inherent in these modern aircraft. I am sure that this is going to be a fine program for the Reserves and the United States Air Force."

The 375th AA Wing, of which the new unit will be a part, has eight C-9s, and the Reservists of the 932nd will assist the wing in operating an eventual total of 12 aircraft.

The 932nd is the seventh Air Force Reserve unit to participate in the Reserve Associate program. The others are all military airlift groups.

MORTAR PIT CHAPEL—Holy Communion is given in South Vietnam mortar pit to men of Ninth Marines during action along Laotian border, south of Khe Sanh. Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) William L. Childers recites prayer near portable chapel seen in rear.

HOLIDAY MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FROM THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

For brave men and women in uniform there are no holidays from responsibility. It is you who make it possible for the rest of America to savor the tranquility of the season with a sure sense of security.

It is a season that speaks of peace and joy and new beginnings. We count these values high. They are not soft and sentimental. They are strong and sacred. They are what matter most in life, and we pay for them with the coin of our courage and mark them with the seal of our sacrifice.

The horizon of our hopes is not rimmed with darkness. A new dawn is possible. No man of himself can make it come to pass. But all men of reason and rectitude—whatever their differences—can reap the greatest reward of all by settling their disputes with honor and honesty.

The United States remains at the ready to do just that. It is you—the men and women of our Armed Forces—who give substance to that high hope. May each one of you personally sense the season's promise; and may you, and those you love, be enriched beyond measure with the season's joys.

CLARK M. CLIFFORD

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